

PATENT
Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Group 2832

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending; claims 1, 2, 11 and 16 are rejected; and claims 3-10, 12-15 and 17-20 are allowed in this application. Claims 1, 11 and 16 are cancelled hereby; and claim 2 is amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 11 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 11 and 16 and amended claim 2 to depend from allowed claim 3. Claim 2 does not make a reference to a non-conductive protrusion rejection, which is the focus of the Examiner's rejection. The placing of claim 2 into dependency upon claim 3, serves to place claim 2 in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 11 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,280,254 (Hunter et al.), Applicants have amended claim 2 and cancelled claims 1, 11 and 16. The amending of claim 2 places it in dependency upon claim 3, which has been allowed by the Examiner. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 2 is now in condition for allowance.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-10, 12-15 and 17-20 are allowed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

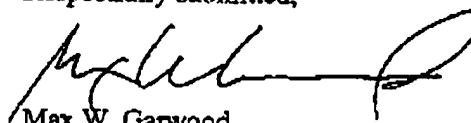
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In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

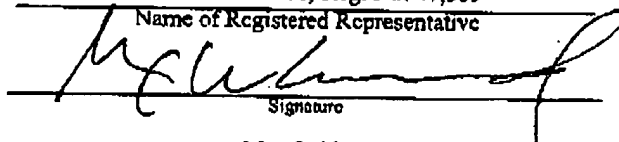

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, on: May 9, 2005.

Max W. Garwood, Reg. No. 47,589
Name of Registered Representative


Signature
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MWG/dc

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